

THE POLYNESIAN.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1859.

The rancor of the opposition Journal against Mr. Gregg betrays it into strange positions. It makes nothing of employing the merest fictions to assail his character. It seems to be entirely oblivious of the divine command which prohibits the bearing of false witness against neighbors.

By what authority or by what right does it assert that Mr. Gregg has made an attack on the importers and merchants of the Kingdom? Is there a sentence or a word in his speech on the tariff which by any fair construction will bear such a sense?

He used this language: "A general duty of ten per cent. *ad valorem* will not, I am convinced, be deemed unreasonable. It is in no sense oppressive. No man can maintain that it is against good policy, or in violation of any real public interest. Let those who are unwilling to submit to it, make their arrangements for departure at their earliest convenience. They can well be spared, and it is probable that their places will soon be supplied with better men—men who will not grudge the small pittance they are required to pay for the security of property and the advantage of protection."

Will the opposition Journal gainsay a single sentiment thus expressed? Will it assert that they are good citizens or good men who complain of reasonable assessments for the support of the government? Does it not offer a gross injustice to the importers and merchants of the islands, when it estimates them by the low standard of its own narrow and illiberal rule of conduct? We are sure that they will scorn its virtual denial of their public spirit and patriotism. If it is unwilling to pay its fair quota into the public treasury, they are generally open-handed and liberal.

Mr. Gregg's speech condemns the mean, the selfish, and the unpatriotic, of whom it may be hoped that there are but few,—not the intelligent and honorable merchants and importers of the country. Malice only could torture his remarks so as to make them bear a different meaning.

But the opposition Journal must speak or burst. It has been fairly shamed out of abusing Mr. Wylie any longer, and as the "last relic," of which it spoke so feelingly last week, is probably urging it onward, it is making up for its abstinence by paying double attention to Mr. Gregg.

"Consequently, while a denizen, he is not and cannot be a full subject and bear full allegiance to the sovereign of the country in which he may reside. To assert that a denizen 'owes as much faith, allegiance and loyalty as' a subject, is promulgating an error, and betrays an ignorance of the relation which denizens and subjects bear to the sovereign."—[P. C. Ade.]

This is the deliberate conclusion of our very conscientious and amiable contemporary! In its zeal to annihilate the Minister of Finance it rushes to Webster and Brande for weapons, entirely forgetful that Hawaiian law has something to do in establishing the status of a denizen. If it had looked beyond the nose, it might easily have saved itself the mortification of an egregious blunder. The statute expressly provides that letters patent of denization "shall render the denizen in all respects accountable to the laws of this Kingdom and impose upon him the like fealty to the King as if he had been naturalized." What is to be the rule of decision in such a case? Shall it be Webster, or Brande, or the definition of our own law? Our friend certainly had intelligence enough to know that it was stating a false position in logic and law, if not in fact, and yet it places itself in an attitude that can only be explained by supposing either moral obliquity or mental blindness as the cause. It is easy to be seen, but we do not care to express it. We choose to avoid all questions of hatred and malevolence, especially when bigotry, intolerance and prejudice are involved.

Such was the mature opinion of the previous Postmaster in Honolulu, in 1858: such was the opinion of the publisher of the *Advertiser* in 1857 when these "hints" were given by him to the present Postmaster; but, strange to say, such is not the opinion of the same publisher and ex-postmaster when he has been taken at his word and his own suggestions have become the law of the land. There is a consistency of which the *Advertiser* alone is capable! To paraphrase the words of our contemporary, we would say that "we hardly know which to pity most," the "poor people" which is supposed to be defended by "so weak an advocate," or "the ignorance or not stability of the" advocate employed. We will be charitable however even in our exposition. We know that the Postmaster of 1858 stood aloof from parties and only subscribed the public good; but "circumstances alter cases" and the opposition journal of 1859 has other meat to fry than to remember his own bannings or to attend to so vulgar a demand upon politicians as consistency.

Memorandum.
[Refer to Printer's Devil in the P. C. A. Office.]

In a leading article of a journal in this city, on Thursday last, the new postage law, as embodied in the New Code, and lately passed by both Houses of the Legislature, has been criticized with less than average ability, but with more than average reticence of hard words and uncouth language.

Not having the law at hand, we copy from the said journal the following extract, which is the butt of its critique:

Sac. 398. On and after July 1, 1859, the rate of inter-island postage shall be as follows: Two cents for every single letter weighing less than half an ounce; four cents for every letter weighing not less than half an ounce or more than one ounce, and two cents for every additional ounce.

One cent an ounce for all bound volumes; newspapers mailed free of the rate of postage to subscribers; free, on those other articles mailed, the rate of postage shall be the same as on letters. Pamphlets containing less than two hundred pages, two cents each; and those containing over two hundred pages, four cents each. Sealed packages at the same rate as letters. Drop letters, or those mailed at the office of delivery, free.

All parcels containing anything besides letters or printed matter, to be enclosed from the inter-island mails, unless postage be paid on the same the rate of one cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce in weight. No package to be conveyed by mail containing liquors in glass or other articles destructive to the contents of the mail bags. Provided, however, that the above rates of inter-island postage shall not apply to mail matter received from foreign countries, but only to such as is mailed within the Kingdom.

Sac. 399. No inter-island letters shall be transmitted by mail unless previously stamped, and it shall be unlawful for coasting vessels, steamers or individuals, to convey unstamped letters from port to port, except letters directed to and intended for emigrants and consulars. Provided, however, that if in case of absence or deficiency of stamps, the postmaster at the place of mailing receives an equivalent in money, in which case it shall be his duty to mark such letters paid, when they shall be transmitted by regular course of mail; and provided also that the provisions of the preceding section shall not apply to the correspondence of His Majesty the King and Queen, or to the correspondence of Ministers, or to any official correspondence whatever, provided the same be deposited with the postmaster and his deputies "may insert and sell postage stamps, and the usual restrictions about affixing with a view to a return, on conviction shall be guilty of felony, and fined not to exceed \$500, or labor for not more than one year."

Says the *Advertiser*: "The object of this law is to produce revenue." Wrong—as usual. No civilized governments now-a-days expect any revenue from the postal arrangements—lucky if in accommodating the public they can meet the expenses. The object of the law was to prescribe and define the duties of that Department of the public service and relieve the Postmaster of that discretionary power with which, in the absence of all law, he is necessarily invested, as well as to secure the public from any possible abuse of such power. This was the true and real "object of the law," but the above political critic comprehends nothing higher than dollars and cents, and so it missed the object of the law.

Our contemporary thinks "the law an injurious one at this time," because— "let it must inevitably result in checking, if not destroying, all correspondence among the native population." In defence of this proposition it is asserted that "the slightest tax will stop all the correspondence" which "is tending perhaps more than any other measure to civilize them, or rather to elevate them in the human scale, to give them new ideas, as well as practice them in writing, while at the same time it tends to unite them," etc. What fine music on so poor a string! That part of the correspondence "now carried on among them," which possibly may tend to civilize

them, is carried on by people who would be still further "elevated in the human scale" if, by the imposition of a small tax, they could be secured from having their letters mixed up with those others which now on the free pass daily through the post office, and, if they are a measure of civilization, would preclude all hope of redemption. If we remember aright, it was said long ago by the Missionaries that, by putting a small price on the Bibles, tracts, etc., which were sent out here to be distributed gratis, these articles became invested with a value in the eyes of the native population which the free gift did not possess, and which probably had the practical effect of preventing the leaves of those books from being cut out and with the aid of paste and paint converted into playing cards. That rule was founded on observation of human nature, and it proved correct; and we have nothing to show that what was sound induction and fair reasoning about Bibles, etc., is not equally sound when applied to the Post Office, if both are looked upon as means of civilization.

2d. Because "it would soon cause an increase in the expenses of the Department which would over-balance the revenue produced." This is simply conjectural; it may, or may not. But even if it should increase the expenses, the Department and the public will be better served, and the civilizing germs contained in the correspondence, carried on through the Post Office, will be pruned of much of that immoral and demoralizing chaff which is now disseminated from the centre to the extremities of the Kingdom, and back again. But after all we have never heard yet of a place, however small, where some one qualified person was not willing to act as postmaster even without a consideration and for the simple advantage of an official position and the bringing together of the community to such man's store, shop or business place. The Americans understand this perfectly well, and the Hawaiians would soon catch the idea.

3d. Because, "there is no necessity for a change in the present system, in as much as the Post Office Department is self supporting, with the exception of the salary of the Postmaster." Our contemporary leaves out the \$1500 paid yearly to the mail carriers on the islands, and he omits also that the decrease in the whaling fleet is threatening to clip the income of the Post Office still closer. With these two exceptions that journal is welcome to its assertion that the Post Office is "self supporting."

4th. Because "the law introduces the franking privilege to officers of Government." That the franking privilege has been abused is no argument against its use, any more than the abuse of any other privilege is a valid reason against its use.

Finally our contemporary says that "the whole law will be viewed as a retrograde step, and, if carried into effect, must tend to check in some measure the improvement of the Hawaiian race." Does it mean that the Post Office Department should be left in the same loose, undefined, arbitrary condition as it has been in ever since its institution? It cannot then be "the whole law" which will be viewed as "a retrograde step," but simply that portion which imposes a tax on inter-island letters. We have conferred with the present Postmaster on this whole subject, and he informs us that in making the suggestions which the Legislature have embodied in the Code and passed as law, his own views of what would be proper and beneficial was greatly corroborated by a memorandum handed him by his predecessor in office—this gentleman singularly enough now happens to hold the editorial crank of that very journal that looks upon the law as "a retrograde step." With his permission we quote from this hitherto unpublished document. It is entitled "Hints for proposed Postal Law, June, 1858," and Section 4 reads:

Postage of one cent to be established on inter-island letters by stamps, no letters to be received and carried in mails without being prepaid. Postage on foreign letters from the other islands 6 cents, newspapers to go free."

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THE PAST WEEK.

Court Physician.

According to rumor Dr. McKibbin, of Honolulu, is likely to receive the appointment of Physician to their Majesties and the Royal Household, the office being at present vacant in consequence of the death of Dr. T. C. B. Rooke, who held it for many years.

United we stand.

Nobody who pretends or has any actual pretensions to be interested in the development of our internal sources of wealth can deny that after all sugar is about the most likely staple of the country. It is an article consumed wherever civilization has pierced, like the sun's rays, and dried up the damps and dews of aboriginal darkness and night. Sugar is coming to be more and more in demand; counting them by the head the human race is becoming more and more sugary. Markets may fluctuate and the profits vary, but sugar is sugar for all that. It is a fact that will exist "till sun's shall rise to set no more."

The worst of it is that before you can grow sugar to advantage you must have capital to lay out, and having put your capital into the ground and into machinery and buildings and oxen and ox-carts and labor, you must needs wait a wee. It is not one of those operations which allow you to turn your money over in a day; not at all like a Stock Exchange transaction; it is no gambling about it; it is a sure thing. But then you have to wait. You know that the interest of your money is coming, and that if it will not yield a hundred fold, it will yield something very well worth accepting when the cane is ripe and the manufacturing process completed. And the want of capital is the real bugbear. We are an easy-going set of people, but we are not rich. We say nothing of the value of the homestead, or the villa with its furniture and the carriage with the horse that goes in harness and the saddle-horses, but beyond all that, it is not everybody who has his forty thousand dollars to invest in a sugar plantation. So far as we can see, a system of combination is necessary. People must unite their means, as the owners of the Lihue Plantation did some time ago, and those of the Haiku estate more recently. Let every man contribute his quota, and as he gets along in the world let him invest more deeply. There lies our chance. It is the same in the matter of labor. If two

men or ten men are insufficient you go on engaging more hands till you get power enough; and exactly so, capital is force. If one man has not capital, or say force, enough to start a plantation, he must get others to join him. Our whalers are similarly owned, with one or two exceptions. Everybody remembers the story of the licitor's rods; let them turn them round about in their minds and see what lesson they teach in view of our financial position.

We hear that a fine tract of land in the vicinity of Hanalei in Kauai and owned by Mr. Dudoit is particularly adapted for a sugar plantation, and that the proprietor is willing to throw it in as much stock if other persons will join in the enterprise. We further hear that certain high and weighty parties who are always foremost to promote every plan that promises to be of advantage to the public and to arouse our slumbering energies, have declared their "adherence" to this object. Let people who have a few hundred dollars to invest make the necessary inquiries—there is a jingling of money taking the shape of gains in the not far off future. To secure it, however, it is necessary to stand by each other and act in unison.

Royal (Native) Hawaiian Agricultural Society.

There was a meeting of this Society held on Wednesday last, His Majesty, the President, in the Chair. Many short addresses, both amusing and instructive, were made. There had been no meeting for more than a year, and some of the members were full of bursting. The King's little speech was the best thing perpetrated; he spoke to the point, and gave the animals called horses, and the native performances called *hulas*, fits. The officers whose term of incumbency had expired were re-elected, Associate Justice Robertson being placed in the gap caused by the death of Chief Justice Lee. The Rev. Mr. Armstrong made a very neat exhibit of the progress effected in agricultural affairs since the members of the Association came together last, and without pretending that any wonder had been performed, claimed for the country some little credit for crawling ahead. He alluded particularly to the enterprise of the inhabitants of the district of Kauai, who have undertaken the business of raising wheat, and will probably send to market this year some three thousand bushels or more. It was determined to have an exhibition on the first Wednesday in September, and although persons not members cannot compete for prizes, they to be respectfully given to understand, that if they will add to the interest of the show by exhibiting what they have that is superior in its own line, they will, to a certain extent, contribute towards a useful agitation. Wood was a good deal dwelt on, and Mr. Moffit's sheep were spoken of as animals that do credit to the country as well as their owner. Members were requested to use all their influence to preserve imported birds, there being some now loose in Honolulu, the law to protect which will not come into effect until sixty days shall have elapsed from the date of His Majesty's approval and signature. It was resolved to request the Hon. Dr. L. Gregg to deliver an address on the day of exhibition, and at the next meeting, to be had on the 7th of May, Mr. C. G. Hopkins is called upon to present, for the concurrence of the Society, a sort of circular or address to be sent throughout the length and breadth of the islands, and to embody and be founded on His Majesty's remarks calling upon the people no longer to make miserable loafers of themselves, and ruin their country for the sake of their profitless and unsightly horses and their time-consuming *hulas*, which latter in these modern days have come to be too highly spiced either to give an idea of old customs or to improve new manners.

House of Representatives.

April 9, ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH DAY.—Mr. Sheldon, from the select committee on the King's message reported a series of amendments to the constitution. Ordered for committee of the whole on Tuesday.

April 15th, SEVENTH DAY.—A message was read reporting the action of the House of Representatives upon the Bill of the Committee of Conference that House have the 102d, 112, 114, 115, 211, 445, 469, 470, and 576 of the Civil Code. The action of the House was concurred in, except in the section of the law (the 102d) the Nobles insisting upon their previous vote. Adjourned.

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Bottle Statistics.

It is said by another journal that "if time was allowed to drum up the other islands, probably 150,000 more (bottles) could be readily had." We always notice that journal's admirable precision of figures as well as facts. That odd thousand of bottles is a master-stroke of commercial calculations that "beats us hollow." We have presumed on the proverbially obliging disposition of the Custom-House Collector, and ascertained that in the year 1858 alone there were imported 127,008 bottles of ale, porter and brandied spirits, besides the thousands of bottles containing spirits, claret and other wines, and when we multiply this with any given number of years during which a similar annual importation has taken place, we are again constrained to admire the accurate minuteness of the above odd thousand.

HAWAIIAN LEGISLATURE.

ADJOURNED SESSION 1858.

House of Nobles.

April 8, SIXTY-SEVENTH DAY.—Prince Kamehameha, of the United States, was referred the royal resolution for the relief of Gerrit P. Judd, reported recommending concurrence with the House below. The report having been accepted, except in the section of the law (the 102d) the Nobles insisting upon their previous vote. Adjourned.

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